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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/076,566	02/19/2002	Yumiko Seki	500.41209X00	1290

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EXAMINER

ABEL JALIL, NEVEEN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2175

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2004

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/076,566

Applicant(s)

SEKI ET AL.

Examiner

Neveen Abel-Jalil

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The following title is suggested:

Eliminating redundancies in information retrieval device and service

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-5, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Li (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,843 B2).

As to claims 1, and 8, Li discloses a retrieval device in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

a retrieval reservation registering portion for registering retrieval requests issued by users
(See column 6, lines 56-67, also see figure 12, 1206, wherein “retrieval reservation” is represented by “database”, and see column 14, lines 46-50);

a retrieval device portion for retrieving information from the databases on the basis of contents of said retrieval request in said registering portion registered and sending retrieval results to said users (See column 14, lines 39-67, and see column 15, lines 11-49); and

a retrieval processing portion for integrating duplicates in said retrieval requests in accordance with pre-stored rules and creating data to be sent to said users when information is retrieved from said databases (See column 18, lines 8-46)

As to claim 2, Li discloses wherein in said retrieval reservation registration, duplicates are checked in said retrieval requests at present and in the past so as to integrate retrieval conditions (See column 6, lines 10-19, also see column 18, lines 38-46, and see column 10, lines 35-67).

As to claim 3, Li discloses wherein said retrieval device portion edits said retrieval results in a predetermined format by user and sends said edited retrieval results to said users respectively on the basis of retrieval conditions desired by said users, said retrieval results being acquired on the basis of said integrated retrieval conditions (See column 18, lines 14-46, wherein “edited results” reads on “relevance feedback”).

As to claim 4, Li discloses wherein upon edition of said results by user, said retrieval device portion eliminates duplicates from said retrieval results desired by each of said users and integrates said retrieval results when there are said duplicates in contents of said retrieval results, so that said retrieval device portion sends said edited results to said user (See column 11, lines

60-66, also see column 12, lines 36-49, and see column 18, lines 14-46, wherein "edited results" reads on "relevance feedback").

As to claim 5, Li discloses further comprising a method in which at least one previously retrieved result is held in said retrieval reservation registration, so that, when a user issues a retrieval request, said user selects to acquire a retrieval result from said held retrieval result or to execute new retrieval from original data (See abstract, and see column 6, lines 34-55).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Li (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,843 B2) in view of Selvarajan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,279,033 B1).

As to claim 6, Li does not teach wherein, when there are duplicates in retrieval requests among users and said requests are integrated to thereby acquire a retrieval result, said retrieval device portion makes copies of said retrieval result and sends said retrieval result to said respective users issuing said requests for said acquired retrieval result.

Selvarajan et al. teaches wherein, when there are duplicates in retrieval requests among users and said requests are integrated to thereby acquire a retrieval result, said retrieval device

portion makes copies of said retrieval result and sends said retrieval result to said respective users issuing said requests for said acquired retrieval result (See Selvarajan et al. column 5, lines 1-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Li to include wherein, when there are duplicates in retrieval requests among users and said requests are integrated to thereby acquire a retrieval result, said retrieval device portion makes copies of said retrieval result and sends said retrieval result to said respective users issuing said requests for said acquired retrieval result.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Li by the teaching of Selvarajan et al. to include wherein, when there are duplicates in retrieval requests among users and said requests are integrated to thereby acquire a retrieval result, said retrieval device portion makes copies of said retrieval result and sends said retrieval result to said respective users issuing said requests for said acquired retrieval result because it reduces processing power for database storage and retrieval.

As to claim 7, Li does not teach wherein said retrieval device portion acquires or sends retrieval in accordance with said retrieval reservation registration at predetermined intervals of time.

Selvarajan et al. teaches wherein said retrieval device portion acquires or sends retrieval in accordance with said retrieval reservation registration at predetermined intervals of time (See Selvarajan et al. column 17, lines 14-49).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Li to include wherein said retrieval device portion acquires or sends retrieval in accordance with said retrieval reservation registration at predetermined intervals of time.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Li by the teaching of Selvarajan et al. to include wherein said retrieval device portion acquires or sends retrieval in accordance with said retrieval reservation registration at predetermined intervals of time because it reduces processing power for database storage and retrieval.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neveen Abel-Jalil whose telephone number is 703-305-8114. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5: 30PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 703-305-3830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Neveen Abel-Jalil
July 21, 2004

Charles Rones
CHARLES RONES
PRIMARY EXAMINER